



## Washington State Dairy Federation

February 18, 2009

To: Environmental Protection Agency

Fr: Wm, Jay Gordon, Executive Director

Re: **EPA Grant Application: Protecting Coastal Watershed, Water Quality and Aquatic Resources for the Impacts of Growth, 2009.**

The Whatcom Conservation District is submitting an application for the EPA grant: **Protecting Coastal Watersheds, Water Quality and Aquatic Resources from the Impacts of Growth.** This project would address agricultural runoff and the possible impacts to fish and marine shellfish beds.

The Washington State Dairy Federation supports projects with innovative ideas to assist our producers in meeting their nutrient management requirements. Having more options available for use on farms and with differing soil, acreage and environmental conditions could offer many advantages for both producers and the environment. Fitting the needs to each agriculture enterprise makes sense; but first we must have sound research data to develop these options.

The Federation supports this project and would be willing to assist with education and informational mailings and possibly meetings with the producers in the Whatcom area. While this project is focused on finding solutions to meet the unique needs in Whatcom County, the results could be utilized state wide. The option for varying dates for application of manure has the possibility of increasing forage productivity, which increases profitability. Increasing profitability means more farmers will stay in business, supporting communities and families.

We urge strong consideration for this innovative approach to an ongoing problem for our producers. The goal of the proposed risk management system is to decrease the impacts of dairy manure application to water quality and increase long-term sustainability of dairy operations in the community.